

Continuous Learning through eLearning



Highland Park Elementary



WE ARE Highland Park Elementary School located on the west side of Bloomington. Our school serves 390 students in PreK – 6th grade and participate in the schoolwide Title I program.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES come from a variety of backgrounds. While we have a small percentage of English Language Learners, their backgrounds represent a variety of cultures.

OUR TEACHERS are provided with assistance from a district ELL teacher, professional development targeted at differentiation of instruction, and assessment support.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE extended learning during scheduled breaks in the school year. Families were given an opportunity to take iPads home during break days. Student iPads were loaded with applications that met a variety of learning needs within a grade level. The iPads had applications that required internet access to run and those that did not. Families that indicated that they did not have internet access were provided a hot spot to support student learning over the break. Students were given assignments to work on focus tasks at their level targeting their area of need.

OUR STEPS began with (1) introducing the concept to parents through a survey of interest and internet availability. This survey was followed up with (2) a letter explaining the concept and an optional user agreement for parents to sign. On the last school day before the break (3) all students were given learning logs to take home and students with signed user agreements were given iPads and chargers to take home as well. On this day (4) a parent email was sent with voice over instructions and the telephone number to a help line.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

Parents and teachers were both appreciative of this opportunity for extended learning.

“It was really nice to do this. I hope we can continue this in the winter break too. Both of my boys were excited to accomplish this and they were proud they could turn in their learning logs completed.”—email from parent

Students also reached out to teachers over break, through email, asking if they could advance to the next level in the application they were working.

For more information about our school or corporation, email: Maggie Dainton mdainton@mccsc.edu or visit our website: <http://www.mccsc.edu/Domain/14>